

Appln No. 09/308,607

Amdt date February 17, 2004

Reply to Office action of October 14, 2003

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification by inserting the following replacement paragraphs.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 35 with the following replacement paragraph:

1 g of calcium phosphate powder (#400 mesh or less) having Ca/P = 1.48 synthesized by a known wet synthesis method was mixed into 3 g of a 10% by weight aqueous solution of polyvinyl alcohol, then 0.5 g of ion exchange water was added and the mixture further mixed and stirred. 10 ml of the slurry obtained was filled into a thermosyringe and a 24G needle (inner diameter 0.47 mm) was used to drop it into liquid nitrogen. The frozen product obtained was dried using a vacuum freeze dryer, then was sintered at 1400°C for 5 hours to obtain 0.9 g of spherical-shape ceramics. The spherical-shape frozen product ~~ceramics~~ obtained has a diameter of 0.8 to 1.2 mm. Powder X-ray measurement confirmed that the spherical-shape ceramics was a single phase of α -tricalcium phosphate.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 25 with the following replacement paragraph:

1 g of calcium phosphate powder (#400 mesh or less) having Ca/P = 1.48 synthesized by a known wet synthesis method was mixed into 3 g of a 10% by weight aqueous solution of

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polyvinyl alcohol, then 0.5 g of ion exchange water was added and the mixture further mixed and stirred. 10 ml of the slurry obtained was filled into a thermosyringe and a 24G needle (inner diameter 0.47 mm) was used to drop it into liquid nitrogen. The frozen product obtained was dried using a vacuum freeze dryer, then was sintered at 1400°C for 5 hours to obtain 0.9 g of spherical-shape ceramics. The spherical-shape frozen product ~~ceramics~~ obtained has a diameter of 0.8 to 1.2 mm. (See Figs. 6(a) and 6(b).)